

# Gladewater Mirror

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Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022

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1 Section, 8 pages

50¢



## Parade

### Postponed

The annual Gladewater Christmas Parade was moved from Tuesday night to this Friday night at 6 p.m. in Historic Downtown Gladewater.

The change was made for the safety of the participants and parade goers, due to possible severe weather.

Santa has been notified!

## Gilmer woman survives train collision

By Phillip Williams

A 61-year-old Gilmer woman received "non-incapacitating" injuries when a Union Pacific train struck her sport utility vehicle on Aspen Trail in the rural Pritchett community area last Thursday, said the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Charon Shaver was taken to CHRISTUS Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview, said DPS Sgt. Gregory Williams. In a phone call to a representative of The Mirror on Monday, she said she was out of the hospital.

Shaver "disregarded (railroad signal) arms down on the train track," resulting in her westbound 2019 Ford being struck on the rear of the driver's side, said Williams.

He said she received a citation for disregarding railroad crossing, but Shaver told the newspaper that a railroad worker had "given a signal that I thought was telling me to come on across."

The crash, reported at 6:08 p.m., occurred about 6 p.m., said Williams.



## TRUMAN SMITH TOY RUN 2022

The 28th Annual Truman Smith Toy Run roared into town Saturday, complete with gifts were piled up on a sleigh and led to Truman W. Smith Children's Center by a large motorcycle parade that started at Outlaws Longview bar. Over 100 children look forward to hearing the sounds of the motorcycles outside of the children's nursing home every year because that's when they know gifts are just outside.

"This day right here is the day that they look forward to all year; that's why we go, whether it's rain, shine, snow. We go because they're expecting us, and we're not going to let them down," said the owner of Outlaws Longview bar Melissa Kelly, who became the organizer of the toy run three years ago when she bought the bar. Kelly said many children at the hospital are not able to get out of bed to come and greet them, so they listen for the motorcycles to circle around the building and rev up their motors. "They can hear it; they can feel it, and that puts a smile on their face," said Kelly. The event started at Mom's Biker bar in Longview and even though Mom's Biker Bar is gone, the tradition lives on.

Photos by Jim Bardwell



## City council to evaluate PD/FD chiefs

The Gladewater City Council is scheduled to meet Thursday at 6 p.m. at City Hall to do its annual evaluation of the city's police and fire chiefs.

Prior to that a public hearing will be conducted regarding a request for a lot size variance to Gladewater Code of Ordinance - Single Family Districts - at 1111 Walnut Street.

● The council also will consider a professional services Agreement between the City of Gladewater and Azavar for consultant services, and consider nominating a person to fill a vacancy on the Upshur County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

● The council also is slated to consider an appointment of a Charter Review Committee and the city is considering using the Sesquicentennial 150th logo on all City correspondence during calendar year 2023.

Gladewater's year-long Sesquicentennial Celebration will have a different event and theme each month, beginning in January as the Gladewater Museum hosts "A Night at the Museum" on Jan. 21 from 6-8 p.m.



## GISD board to buy truck/trailer for ag program

The Gladewater ISD board approved seeking bids for a truck and trailer for the school's high school Ag Program, not to exceed \$140,000. And board member Chris Thompson wants the winning bidder to be local.

Thompson, who works at a local dealership, said he thought GISD should give local businesses priority because local businesses pay school taxes.

The board also agreed to purchase a new oven at the GHS cafeteria and have it installed for \$15,000.

Following an executive session, the board accepted the resignation of athletic trainer/teacher Jeffrey Davis and approved the hiring of PK-teacher Amanda Charchio.

School will have early release Dec. 15 for the holidays and student will return on Jan. 4.

On Jan. 3, a ribbon cutting will be held for the new Gladewater Primary School building.

# Gladewater posts sales tax revenue increase for 15-straight months

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced last week he will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts \$1.1 billion in local sales tax allocations for December, 12.4 percent more than in December 2021.

These allocations are based on sales made in October by businesses that report tax monthly.

Gladewater's growth continues for the 15th month in a row - posting a 17.17-percent increase in sales tax revenue over 2021 and a 14-29-percent boost for the year when compared to 2021's year-to-date figures. See chart for details.

County	City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
Gregg	Clarksville City	1.000%	\$6,607.36	\$5,938.73	11.25%	\$94,618.82	\$88,170.63	7.31%
Gregg	Easton	1.000%	\$4,315.33	\$2,625.82	64.34%	\$61,782.18	\$52,913.06	16.76%
Gregg	Gladewater	1.500%	\$125,799.43	\$107,356.11	17.17%	\$1,437,897.62	\$1,258,004.37	14.29%
Gregg	Kilgore	1.500%	\$767,622.32	\$625,333.17	22.75%	\$9,036,209.21	\$7,519,381.75	20.17%
Gregg	Lakeport	1.500%	\$23,549.45	\$20,943.60	12.44%	\$293,590.36	\$260,669.98	12.62%
Gregg	Longview	1.500%	\$3,399,886.16	\$3,167,408.90	7.33%	\$43,925,416.64	\$38,762,679.54	13.31%
Gregg	Warren City	1.000%	\$2,040.99	\$1,206.29	69.19%	\$18,557.73	\$16,695.74	11.15%
Gregg	White Oak	1.500%	\$124,498.25	\$112,177.31	10.98%	\$1,501,146.58	\$1,225,643.51	22.47%
Upshur	Big Sandy	1.250%	\$21,971.45	\$21,366.96	2.82%	\$293,087.11	\$284,052.45	3.18%
Upshur	East Mountain	1.000%	\$3,389.10	\$2,621.14	29.29%	\$43,189.53	\$43,000.57	0.43%
Upshur	Gilmer	1.500%	\$221,152.13	\$180,192.98	22.73%	\$2,618,455.89	\$2,275,068.24	15.09%
Upshur	Ore City	1.250%	\$15,977.02	\$19,496.46	-18.05%	\$230,134.90	\$228,051.25	0.91%
Upshur	Union Grove	1.000%	\$444.06	\$370.48	19.86%	\$5,100.43	\$4,625.69	10.26%



# OPINION/COMMENTARY

**THE FIRST AMENDMENT:** Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

## THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

### Staying on the Track

We just avoided a major train wreck!  
 Rail is a crucial component of the US logistics system, and a prolonged strike would lead to chaos. It would exacerbate ongoing supply chain challenges, put additional upward pressure on prices and, thus, do substantial economic harm. We rarely stop and think about how critical railroads are in knitting our complex economy together, but we came perilously close to a stark reminder.



Although a tentative agreement had been reached between the major railways and union representatives (with assistance from the Biden Administration), it required ratification by members of 12 unions before going into effect. That didn't happen, and a strike loomed large.

Fortunately, Congress has the power to force the issue, and it did. Under the new contract, workers will receive an additional paid day off and a 24% pay raise through 2024. There are also provisions related to health insurance premiums and deductibles. Eight rail unions ratified the agreement, but four did not, primarily because of concerns regarding paid sick leave.

To illustrate the economic damage such a strike could have wrought, we recently analyzed the cost of a hypothetical one-month shutdown to the US and Texas economies. This assessment is based on the proportion of the economy that relies on the system and involves modeling the use of rail freight across several hundred detailed sectors.

We estimate that a one-month rail shutdown would have cost the US economy over \$285 billion in gross product and nearly 1.3 million job-years of employment. (A job-year is the equivalent of one person working for one year, although in this instance, it would primarily be multiple individuals working partial years.) For Texas, the corresponding losses would have been over \$29 billion in gross product and about 97,700 job-years.

Industries which would be particularly hard hit by a rail strike include chemicals and petroleum refining, processed food, electric and electronic equipment, petroleum and natural gas, agricultural products, and fabricated metals. Most of these are key export generators for both the United States and Texas.

A major rail strike would have been a substantial blow to the economy, and the timing was particularly bad. The supply chain is only now recovering from the pandemic disruptions and other calamities, and the last thing it needed was a further challenge. Higher prices and fewer choices for consumers would also have been part of the inevitable fallout. With inflation already high and the holiday season approaching, the effects would have been magnified.

We most definitely dodged a major bullet. While I prefer that such matters be resolved in the private market and it is unfortunate that Congress had to intervene, it was the only choice without devastating consequences. Stay safe!



### "...if only in my dreams"

I don't want things to change...but they do, and they have. Maybe that is why the Christmas carol "I'll Be Home For Christmas" brings a little bit of an ache to my heart along with tender smiles. Growing up, Christmas was magical and shiny, with Christmas Eve celebrated at my widowed grandmother's neat little home around a silver tinsel tree, with the bonus of a mesmerizing color wheel.

Of course, old St. Nick came on Christmas morning to our country home. My younger brother and I were not allowed to run like ban-shees into the living room until my Mom or Dad had brought our older brother Donnie, who had severe cerebral palsy, into the living room in front of the tree. Then it was Katy bar the door and a mad dash for the goodies left by Santa. After breakfast we went to my Mom's parents for more Christmas, and food that I dream about to this day. Why I didn't make it home to snag the tinsel tree or my other grandmother's plastic icicles when their households were broken up I still deeply regret.

My sweetheart and I participated in First Christian Church's Living Nativity as Mary and Joseph when we were young. The sacred Christmas Eve service with the "Hallelujah" chorus ringing in Christmas on the stroke of midnight was profoundly spiritual and joyous. As magical as those cherished Christmas memories were, the best was yet to be.

I can still remember our son's first Christmas and his big hazel eyes when he focused on our Christmas tree. I will never forget him patting my cheek with excitement. By year two he was a little whirlwind, still patting my cheeks and telling me he loved me. By age three Josh had asked Santa for a backhoe, and boy did Santa deliver. When his dad tried to



### The Best of Suzanne Bardwell

show him how to maneuver it our son's response was, "No! Josh do it his way." And he has throughout his life, done it in ways that matter. But, I do so miss that sweet little boy, Birthday cakes for Jesus, innocent wonder, and, that soft, loving pat on my cheek.

On a recent trip to our family ranch I walked through the silent house of my childhood, sat on the couch and looked out the big picture windows by the fireplace. In that moment I closed my eyes and heard my Daddy call me his "Darlin' Daughter" and my son his "little buddy". I saw the big bulb Christmas lights of my childhood reflecting in my older brother's deep brown eyes. I heard my ever busy Mom in the kitchen, and my little brother's excitement over his Hot Wheels. I felt the hand of my sweetheart as we stood beside a manger with shepherds and wisemen. I saw the lights of trees across the years and across the miles. I felt the love I have always known...

...and then, I hummed the Christmas song of my heart... "I'll be home for Christmas

You can plan on me...  
 ...Christmas Eve will find me  
 Where the love light gleams  
 I'll be home for Christmas  
 If only in my dreams"





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### POSTMODERNISM # 2

More And more today, the concept of morality as taught in God's Word, is being dismissed and trivialized. More and more things are considered perfectly moral even though the Bible labels them as immoral and sinful. For example, in homosexual marriage God's authority is neutralized and His teaching about marriage being between one man and one woman is considered a light and trivial thing and is dismissed. The result is a morality that is according to man's own making. But consider this. Once people trivialize God, and presume the right to make their own moral and doctrinal rules, they must grant others the right to their own way as well. Since every man can do what is right in his own eyes, then every man's rule or standard must be permissible, and who can argue otherwise? This is known as "pluralism" and is where the confusion sets in.

In the thinking of our postmodern world no moral system is any better than any other, and no belief system has any more truth than any other. When God is trivialized, man feels free to believe everything is true and right! Thus, everything is true; and no doctrine or moral system, however outrageous or nonsensical, should be refused. In his book: *Death of Truth*, Dennis McCallum said: "Postmodernism has provided the philosophical framework that lends intellectual respectability to views and practices that once were considered superstitious or weird." In our postmodern thinking there is fast becoming no such thing as heresy, and truth is pluralistic.

Pluralism allows competing and contradictory doctrines and moralities to be acceptable to God at the same time. Fornication can be both moral and immoral. Add to that list various immoralities such as prostitution, gambling, smoking pot, drinking, homosexuality, pornography, and a whole host of contradictory religious doctrines. Do you wonder why today's youth are growing up confused? What are they hearing? I'll tell you: "You can believe whatever you wish, as long as you don't bind what you believe on anyone else." Therefore, so many of our youth don't know what to believe!

Thus, we are seeing people getting saved and worshipping any way they please. Churches and religions involve themselves in all sorts of enterprises, and label them religious. God's Word is completely ignored, and what Paul said in Col. 3: 17 counts for naught. And why not, since God's authority is neutralized? People may have sex with, live with, and marry whomever they please. And why not I ask, since God's commandments have been trivialized and are just one alternative among many? Think on these things. (More next week).

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### Retiring senator named Secretary of State

Retiring state Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, has been named the next secretary of state by Gov. Greg Abbott. She replaces John Scott, who announced his resignation effective at year's end.

Scott was the third nominee for the post not confirmed by the Senate. He was appointed in October 2021, and the Legislature has not met since then. Nelson, who is completing 30 years in the Senate, should be a strong candidate for approval because of her lengthy tenure there. A new legislative session convenes in January.

The secretary of state's office, among other duties, oversees the state's election process.

"I look forward to this new chapter of public service and appreciate the confidence Governor Abbott has placed in me to serve as Secretary of State," Nelson said in a statement. "Voters expect fair elections with accurate, timely results, and I am committed to making that happen. Texans with all political views should have faith in our election system."

### TikTok banned on all state-issued phones

Abbott last week ordered all Texas state agencies to ban use of the social media app TikTok on any government-issued device, saying it risks allowing China to gain access to "critical U.S. information."

The popular video-sharing application is owned by a Chinese company and is used by an estimated 85 million people in the United States.

TikTok maintains the Chinese government has never tried to access the data of its users, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Abbott said he is prepared to work with state lawmakers to make the ban permanent during the next session, and to extend the ban to devices issued by local governments, such as cities and counties.

"We must work together to stop the Chinese government's efforts to collect, store, and distribute Texans' data and personal information," Abbott wrote in a letter to Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dade Phelan.

### TPWD stresses testing harvested deer

The recent discover of chronic wasting disease in Kaufman County has spurred biologists with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to stress the importance of testing deer taken this hunting season to curb the spread of the deadly disease.

The neurological disease is highly contagious and affects white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, and moose. It has been found in 17 Texas counties and documented in both captive and free-ranging deer in 30 states and three Canadian provinces, according to TPWD.

Anyone hunting in an established CWD zone must bring their deer to a check station within 48 hours of harvest for testing. There are about 30 check stations and drop boxes across the state. For more information, visit the TPWD website at [tpwd.texas.gov](http://tpwd.texas.gov).

### Largest teacher prep program under fire

The Texas Education Agency is recommending that Texas Teachers of Tomorrow have its accreditation revoked after failing to improve training of teacher candidates. The *Dallas Morning News* reported the company, which certifies thousands of teachers mainly through online courses, failed to meet demands by TEA that it ensure all candidates receive adequate actual classroom training.

The State Board of Educator Certification met Friday to consider the company's fate. Texas Teachers of Tomorrow and TEA are expected to present arguments before an administrative judge, and the case could stretch on for months or even more than a year.

The company has been on probation for several months, and TEA found it did not meet the terms of their agreement



to improve. The state already faces a teacher shortage that could be exacerbated if the company's accreditation is revoked.

### TABC working with retailers over holidays

'Tis the season for tipling, and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is working with retailers to make prevent illegal alcohol sales. TABC plans inspections across the state to ensure retailers are following the law and not selling to people under 21 as well as those who are visibly intoxicated.

"Now is the best time, before the holiday season kicks into high gear, for business owners and managers to educate their staff on ways to prevent illegal alcohol sales," TABC executive director Thomas Graham said.

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, drunk driving was a factor in nearly one-fourth of all traffic deaths last year. Businesses who violate state alcohol laws face fines or suspension of their alcohol licenses, while individuals could face misdemeanor charges resulting in a fine or jail time.

### Holiday happenings at state parks

State parks across Texas are hosting a variety of holiday events in December, including themed guided walks, scavenger hunts and more, according to TPWD. However, anyone planning to visit a state park should reserve their day pass in advance to avoid turned away from parks that reach capacity. You can do so on the TPWD website ([tpwd.texas.gov](http://tpwd.texas.gov)) or by calling 512-389-8900.

Activity examples include elves running loose at Fort Boggy State Park on Saturday, Dec. 10, with prizes to folks who spot the first 10 elves on the Lake Sullivan Trail. At Big Bend Ranch State Park, the darkest skies in Texas provide excellent star gazing. A full list of holiday events at state parks is on the TPWD website.

### COVID-19 cases continue to rise

The number of new COVID-19 cases in the past week in Texas rose once again, this time to 30,096 with 91 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. The Texas Department of State Health Services reported a slight increase, with 1,977 lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients across the state.

**Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: [gborders@texaspress.com](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).**

## County eyes leave for courthouse move

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court on Thursday (Dec. 15) will consider leasing Gilmer ISD's former administration building to house courthouse offices while the 85-year-old county courthouse undergoes a historical internal renovation.

The matter is among only six items, counting adjournment and the invocation, on the agenda for the 10 a.m. public meeting at the courthouse in Gilmer.

Some, though not all, county offices are located in the downtown courthouse, and are scheduled to move for up to three years to the vacant school structure at the intersection of Warren Avenue and Trinity Streets.

Gilmer ISD Superintendent Rick Albritton said Monday the proposed agreement calls for the county paying the school \$1 annually for a 3-year lease, with an option to buy the building afterward. No price has been set for the potential purchase, he said.

The 5-story brick courthouse will undergo a multi-million dollar renovation to restore it largely to its appearance when it was completed in 1937. A combination of state, federal and county funds will finance the project, which has been many years in the making.

The 2-story nearby brick building which will serve as county offices' temporary home has been, at various times in its more than 100-year-old history, the high school, junior high school, middle school and first home of the Upshur County Appraisal District.

Once three stories, it sits alongside the long-abandoned Trinity Street Gym, site of many pageants of the annual East Texas Yamboree festival. Asbestos has been recently removed from the onetime administration building.

In other business Thursday, the court is scheduled to consider approving "certification of additional income" which it recently approved accepting--a \$2,000 anonymous donation to Sheriff Larry Webb's office for continuing education.

The donation was funneled through the Gilmer Area Chamber of Commerce.

Thursday's planned vote is what officials labeled a "house-keeping" matter because although the court already approved receiving the funds, County Auditor Connie Williams must certify any unexpected new revenue taken in after the county budget for the fiscal year is adopted.

The court is also scheduled to consider nominating a candidate for the Upshur County Appraisal District's Board of Directors to fill a seat being vacated by Precinct 4 County Commissioner Jay W. Miller.

Miller, who was re-elected county commissioner Nov. 8 and is scheduled to take office for a second 4-year term in January, is leaving the appraisal board before his term for 2022-23 is completed.

The court will also Thursday consider several mostly-routine items which are sub-grouped under one item on the agenda. They range from approving the payroll to paing bills.

## Gilmer police chief Mark Case retires

By Phillip Williams

Retiring longtime Gilmer Police Chief Mark Case, a Gladewater resident and former Gladewater police officer, was honored with a reception on his final day as chief Nov. 30 at the Gilmer Civic Center.

Case, chief since 2014 and a member of the Gilmer police force the past 26 years, was succeeded by the city's first-ever female chief, police Capt. Lana Davidson. City Mgr. Greg Hutson recently appointed her.

Case left law enforcement to resume being a full-time

truck driver, a profession he said he has been pursuing either part or full-time for 34 years. He hauls goods ranging from explosives to embalming fluid, he noted.

"It's been an honor and a privilege to serve the citizens of Gilmer for the past 26 years," said Case, expressing gratitude for the city council's "trust" in him.

Case's career in law enforcement began with the Gladewater Police Department from 1990-96. After beginning as a reserve officer, he became full-time as a patrol officer in 1993, he noted.



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Manna House closed for holiday

The local Manna House, which provides assistance to those in need will be closed until Jan. 2. While Manna House may be closed, the need for food continues. So please continue your weekly donations of bread, canned fruit, jelly, peanut butter and mac-n-cheese. When you are grocery shopping, consider picking up a few extra items for Manna House, so they can keep helping others. Drop off the non-perishable items at 519 E Broadway Ave. or at the *Gladewater Mirror* at 211 N. Main. Got questions, call (903) 845-3128.

## GW Garden Club

The Gladewater Garden Club, established 1949, meets the fourth Monday of each month at the Gardens of Gladewater Clubhouse, 108 N. Lee Street, at 1 p.m.

They have monthly programs by gardenign experts and refreshments. If you are interested in joinign contact a garden club member.

## Lee-Bardwell Public Library invites kids to decorate the Christmas tree

Here are a few few things hapenign this week at the Lee-Bardwell Public Library - it will be operating under our normal hours this week except for Saturday, when they will be there from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. instead of our normal 10 a.m. to 2 p.m..

Also, on Saturday, December 17, the library is going to have a little fun! They have a brand new Christmas tree that they are putting up, but it's so bare! And they want your help to make some homemade ornaments for the tree. And not just regular ornaments. They want all the creativity that you can muster. They will have all the materials, you'll just need to bring your family.

## County library hosts storytime

Two books will be read to small children at each of the Upshur County Library's two weekly "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer Thursday, July 14 "Where's Walrus?" by Chris Riddell and "The Walrus and the Caribou" by Maika Harley, will be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. gatherings, said County Librarian Cynthia King.

A craft will follow each Storytime, The library is at 702 W. Tyler (which is also Texas Hwy. 154.)

While the events are free to the public, children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, contact the library at (903) 843-5001 or visit its website at [www.youseemore.com/upshur](http://www.youseemore.com/upshur).

## UG Band students make All-Region

The Union Grove HS Band had 10 students earn a chair in the All-Region Band this year



## Neighbors Helping Neighbors ...

What a wonderful group of Manna House volunteers who gathered last week to distribute 62 Christmas boxes of food and toys for 76 children - to their neighbors who needed a little help this year. The event was held at the First United Methodist Church.



along with 2 alternates. 6 students have advanced to the area competition on Jan. 7th. We are super proud of all that auditioned today!!!!

- Wind ensemble
- \* Colter Fowler - Clarinet, 8th Chair(Area)
- \* Kameron Townsend - Bass Clarinet, 1st Chair (area)
- \* Hannah Coulter - French Horn, 4th Chair(area)
- \* Emily Lynch - French Horn, 6th Chair(area)
- \* TJ Fowler - Trombone, 4th Chair(area)
- \* Elijah Parham - Baritone, 2nd Chair (area)
- Symphonic Band
- \* Emily Valdes - Flute, 4th Chair
- \* Torryn Humber - Flute, 12th Chair
- \* Aidan Jones - Trumpet, 14th Chair
- \* August Vestal - French Horn, 6th Chair Alternate
- \* Travis Steele - Trombone
- \* Colton Mead - Baritone



The UG speech team went to the Sabine Cardinal Christmas Tournament. Congratulations to the following students, Brendon Fuller placed 2nd and Colton Mead placed 4th in Informative speaking . Jamie Russell and Colton Mead placed 4th over all in CX Debate out of 29 team's represented at the tournament. Also, Colton Mead was top speaker in CX Debate.

FOOTBALL ALL-DISTRICT SELECTIONS		
<b>1ST TEAM</b>	<b>2ND TEAM</b>	<b>HONORABLE MENTION</b>
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JACE ROBERTS - DB	PEYTON LAAKE - WR	MASON BYERS - DL
	REED COOPER - OL	KAYDEN DAY - LB
	BRADEN PHITTLE - DL	CARTER COOPER - LB
	LANDON FERGIUSON - OL	RYLAN ROBERTS - DB
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 Pastor: David Whit field  
 gladeviewbaptistchurch@gmail.com

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Sunday School	11 a.m.	Prayer and Bible Study	
Morning Service	6:30 p.m.		
Evening Service			903-845-6440

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# TxDOT project updates for this week in East Texas

TYLER – TxDOT is planning to conduct the following construction and maintenance work in the district. Work schedules are subject to change due to weather conditions, equipment failure, or other unforeseen issues. Slow down and pay attention in work zones.

## Gregg County

Gregg County construction projects updates:

### US 259 and US 80

Limits: US 80 to James Street  
Contractor: TiZack Concrete, Inc.  
Cost: \$470,000  
Anticipated Completion Date: April 2023

This project consists of installing new sidewalks and pedestrian ramps and driveways. There will be alternating lane closures, depending on which side of the roadway the contractor will be working on. Motorists are encouraged to slow down and watch for workers.

### US 80 and FM 2208 (Alpine Road)

Limits: Intersection of US 80 and FM 2208  
Contractor: Reynolds and Kay, LTD  
Cost: \$784,000  
Anticipated Completion Date: April 2023

This project consists of installing new pedestrian signal poles, sidewalks, and handicap ramps at the intersection. There will be alternating lane closures depending on which side of the intersection they will be working on. Motorists are encouraged to slow down and watch for workers. Expect delays.

### Spur 502 (Judson Road) at Eden

Limits: Intersection of Judson Rd. and Eden Dr.  
Contractor: Reynolds and Kay, LTD  
Cost: \$330,000  
Anticipated Completion Date: February 2023

This project consists of installing new pedestrian signal poles, sidewalks, and handicap ramps at the intersection. There will be alternating lane closures depending on which side of the intersection they will be working on. Motorists are encouraged to slow down and watch for workers. Expect delays.

SLP 281 – Sidewalk Installation  
Limits: Fairmont St. to SH 300 (Gilmer Rd.)  
Contractor: Cross Plus Construction  
Cost: \$2.5 million  
Anticipated Completion Date: February 2023

This project consists of installing sidewalks on both sides of the road. There will be shoulder closures as well as some lane closures as needed. Slow down and watch for workers. Expect delays.

### SH 135 – Kilgore Traffic Circle

Limits: Traffic circle in Kilgore to Rusk County line  
Contractor: East Texas Bridge  
Cost: \$8.37 million  
Anticipated Completion Date: March 2024

This project consists of completely rebuilding the traffic circle and full width of roadway to the Rusk County line. It will consist of removing existing concrete paving, reconstructing subgrade, constructing concrete paving, storm sewer installation, lighting, and striping. The traffic will be reduced to one lane in the southbound direction for the duration of the project. A detour will be set up for northbound traffic to follow SH 42. This will allow the contractor to build half of the roadway. Traffic will be switched to the newly constructed lanes later to allow completion of the other half of the highway. Expect delays.

### Spur 63/McCann Road Bridge Project

Limits: From McCann Road, north to Glencrest Lane  
Contractor: Leland Bradlee Construction  
Anticipated Completion Date: December 2022

This project is part of the City of Longview Guthrie Creek Trail project. It will consist of building a bridge over Guthrie Creek to allow bicyclist and pedestrians to travel under Spur 63. The traffic will be reduced to two lanes, one northbound lane and one south bound lane to allow the contractor to build half of the bridge. Traffic will be switched later to allow completion of the bridge construction. Expect delays.

### FM 2206/Harrison Road

Limits: Fisher Rd. to SH 42  
Contractor: East Texas Bridge, Inc.  
Cost: \$14.15 million  
Anticipated Completion Date: May 2023

This project consists of widening a two-lane road to four lanes with a center turn lane. This includes drainage structures, new bridge, flexible base, hot mix, and pavement markings. Contractor will be extending culverts and constructing detours. There will be daytime lane closures. Expect delays.

### FM 2206/Harrison Road

Limits: From Loop 281 to Fisher Rd.  
Contractor: East Texas Bridge, Inc.  
Cost: \$15.16 million  
Anticipated Completion Date: October 2023

This project consists of widening a two-lane road to four lanes with a center turn lane. This includes drainage structures, flexible base, curb and gutter, sidewalks, hot mix, and pavement markings. Contractor will be extending culverts and constructing detours. There will be daytime lane closures. Expect delays.

### Pentecost Rd. Bridge Replacement

Limits: US 259 Business to Stone Rd.  
Contractor: South Texas Illumination  
Cost: \$638,000  
Anticipated Completion Date: January 2023

The project consists of replacing the bridge structure on Big Head Creek. Pentecost Road will be closed to through traffic. Only local traffic will be allowed. Through traffic needs to select an alternate route.

## Smith County

Tyler Maintenance will have a base failure crew on FM 850, two miles south of SH 31. Motorists should expect lane closures with flaggers controlling traffic. A second crew will assist Special Jobs with a fog seal project on US 271 from Gentry Pkwy, inside Loop 323 to FM 2015 just outside of the loop.

Smith County construction projects updates:

### Sidewalks at Various Locations in Smith County

Limits: SH 64 in Tyler (Entrada Lane to Parkdale Dr.); SH 110 in Troup (CR 2138 to FM 347); SH 135 in Troup (FM 13 to Tiger Drive)  
Contractor: Highway 19 Construction, LLC  
Cost: \$3.5 million  
Anticipated Completion Date: Winter 2022

Project is in final cleanup. No work is scheduled this week. No lane closures are anticipated. The project consists of sidewalk construction along SH 64 west in Tyler, SH 110 west in

Troup and SH 135 north in Troup.

### FM 344, etc., Safety Improvements

Limits: FM 344 – From FM 756 east to SH 110; FM 768 – from Loop 456, S to FM 22  
Contractor: A R Brothers Construction Services, Inc.  
Cost: \$1.8 million  
Anticipated Completion Date: Spring 2023  
No work is scheduled this week. Project is awaiting final punch list. The project consists of improving drainage, culvert work, and guardrail upgrades.

### SH 155 Resurfacing Project

Limits: From Loop 323 in Tyler, southwest to the Anderson County line  
Contractor: Madden Contracting Company, LLC  
Cost: \$17 million  
Anticipated Completion Date: Summer 2023  
The contractor is scheduled to place PFC (permeable friction course) and fog seal. Lane closures are anticipated. Work will be done during the day. Expect delays on this corridor when construction is in progress. The project will resurface the roadway, upgrade drainage structures, and repair bridge joints.

### SH 64 Bridge Maintenance

Limits: Prairie Creek  
Contractor: Highway 19 Construction, LLC  
Cost: \$332,000  
Anticipated Completion Date: Winter 2022  
This project is complete and will be removed from this report next week. The project consists of bridge maintenance and repair.

### Tyler State Park Bridge and Resurfacing Project

Limits: Park Maintenance Road in Tyler State Park SW to Cedar Point Camping Area Exit  
Contractor: Encino Landscape  
Cost: \$2.4 Million  
Anticipated Completion Date: Summer 2023  
No work is scheduled this week. The project consists of bridge and pavement resurfacing.

### SH 110 & FM 346 Landscape Project

Limits: Various locations on SH 110 & FM 346  
Contractor: Tight Line Construction, LLC  
Cost: \$157,495  
Anticipated Completion Date: Winter 2022  
The contractor will continue maintenance of various landscape beds. The project consists of landscape development.

### Whittle Street, CR 2110, and CR 289 Bridge Replacement Project

Limits: Whittle Street, CR 2110, CR 289  
Contractor: THK Construction, LLC  
Cost: \$1.25 million  
Anticipated Completion Date: Spring 2023  
No work is scheduled this week on Whittle Street at West Mud Creek Tributary. The road is closed to through traffic.

The project replaces the existing bridge with a new structure.

No work is scheduled on the CR 2110 bridge at Kickapoo Creek. The road is closed to through traffic. The project replaces the existing bridge with a new structure.

No work is scheduled this week on the CR 289 bridge at Prairie Creek. The road is open to traffic. The project replaces the existing bridge with a new structure. The contractor will complete one bridge at a time.

### I-20 Mill and Inlay

Limits: Van Zandt County Line to SH 110  
Contractor: Texas Materials Group, INC.  
Cost: \$6 million  
Anticipated Completion Date: Spring 2023  
No work is scheduled this week. Work will resume as weather allows. Expect delays on this corridor when construction is in progress. Project consists of an overlay with TBPF surface, ACP surface, planing, shoulder texturing and pavement markings.

### US 271 Rehab, Turn Lanes, and Pavement Overlay

Limits: From FM 16 going southwest to I-20  
Contractor: Madden Contracting Company, LLC  
Cost: \$12.4 million  
Anticipated Completion Date: May 2023  
No work is scheduled this week. The project consists of paving, structures, MBGF, and pavement markings from I-20 N to the Gregg County Line. The portion from IH 20 to FM 16 also includes turn lanes and pavement rehabilitation.

### Safety Improvement Project (Van Zandt, Anderson, Smith, and Henderson County)

Limits: FM 47, etc.  
Contractor: Highway 19 Construction, LLC.  
Cost: \$4.5 million  
Anticipated Completion Date: Fall 2022  
The contractor is scheduled to continue final cleanup on FM 850 in Smith County. Motorists should be prepared for lane closures and delays. The project includes grading, structure work, guard rail replacement and bridge rail upgrades.


### SH 64 Intersection Improvement and Turn Lanes

Limits: At CR 289 (Wolfe Lane)  
Contractor: Lonestar Equipment Co. Inc.  
Cost: \$2.2 million  
Anticipated Completion Date: Fall 2023  
The contractor is scheduled to continue work on drainage structures and performing ROW clearing. Expect delays on this corridor while construction is in progress. Lane closures are anticipated. Project consists of an intersection improvement and addition of turn lanes at CR 289 (Wolfe Lane)..

## Upshur County

Upshur County construction projects updates:

US 271 – From 5.9 miles north of SH 155 to 1.5 miles north of SH 155, resurfacing road



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*Mar. 31-Apr. 4, 2023*

**East Coast Tour:** Home games at Yankees, Red Sox, Orioles, Phillies, Nationals, Mets & Little League World Series.  
*Aug. 18-27, 2023*

*Tours include additional sightseeing, motor coach transportation and quality hotels/game tickets.*

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine & Malt Beverage Retail Dealer's On Premise permit (BG) for McCain 22 Investments LLC, to be located at 1005 W Upshur Ave, Gladewater, Gregg County, TX 75647. Member of said entity is John S McCain, Sole Managing Member.



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**AUCTION**

**45th Annual Cattleman Bull & Female Sale** 12:00 Noon, Jan. 21, 2023, El Campo Livestock Exchange, El Campo, Texas. 100 bulls, 250 females, cattleman-sale.com.

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**EVENT**

**Floresville - Top Hat Emporium Pop-Up Market,** Sat. Dec. 17, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., outside. 48 vendors inside. 540 10th (Hwy 181), Ste. 140, Floresville, 830-251-3288.

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### Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

The City of Gladewater will receive bids for 2022 WTP Upgrades until 10:00 AM on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 519 E Broadway Ave, Gladewater, TX 75647. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 519 E Broadway Ave, Gladewater, TX 75647.

Project description includes the construction of a pre-engineered metal building with foundation, new chemical storage and distribution equipment, installation of raw water monitoring equipment, demo work of existing facilities, electrical and scada modifications, and other miscellaneous items of construction.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications, are on file at SPI, 320 S. Broadway Ave, Suite 200, Tyler, TX 75702, and Gladewater City Hall, 519 E Broadway Ave, Gladewater, TX 75647.

Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained for a non-refundable deposit of \$30 with Schaumburg & Polk, Inc. for each set of documents obtained. Copies can also be purchased on [www.isqft.com](http://www.isqft.com) or [www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com).

A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid [for those contracts that exceed \$100,000]. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Gladewater or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Department of Labor and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin. Adherence to the grant recipient's Section 3 Policy is required for contracts and subcontracts in excess of \$100,000.00.

The City of Gladewater reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Bids may be held by the City of Gladewater for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

City of Gladewater      Scott E. Owens, Mayor      12/8/2022 & 12/15/2022

All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

### NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO or the Company) publishes this notice that on September 30, 2022, it filed its Statement of Intent and Application for Authority to Amend Transmission Cost Recovery Factor (TCRF) with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) in Docket No. 54040. The filing was made in accordance with the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA) § 36.209 and 16 Tex. Admin. Code (TAC) § 25.239. The TCRF will recover SWEPCO's reasonable and necessary costs for transmission infrastructure improvements as well as changes in wholesale transmission charges under a tariff approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to the extent that the costs or charges have not otherwise been recovered. In this application, SWEPCO seeks to recover its transmission capital investments from April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022. SWEPCO also seeks to recover through the TCRF approved transmission charges that are not otherwise being recovered through current rates. This notice is being published in accordance with PURA § 36.103 and 16 TAC § 22.51(a)(1).

### STATEMENT OF INTENT TO CHANGE RATES

SWEPCO requests that the Commission approve an increase of \$8,441,187 above the revenue requirement approved by the Commission in SWEPCO's last base rate case, Docket No. 51415 for its Texas retail customers. This amounts to a 2.1% percent increase in SWEPCO's overall annualized Texas retail revenue requirement. SWEPCO proposes that its requested rate change become effective 35 days after the filing of the Statement of Intent and Application. The proposed effective date is subject to suspension and extension by actions that may be taken by the Commission.

All customers in SWEPCO's Texas retail rate classes will be affected by this change. The impact of the rate change on various customer classes will vary from the overall impact described in this notice.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Persons with questions or who want more information on SWEPCO's Statement of Intent and Application may contact SWEPCO at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101, or call toll-free at (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours. A complete copy of the Statement of Intent and Application and related filings is available for inspection at the address listed in the previous sentence.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136. A request for intervention or for further information should refer to Docket No. 54040. Unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, motions to intervene will be due 45 days from the date SWEPCO filed its Statement of Intent and Application with the Commission.

Police Activity Report

Table with columns: CALL DATE, CALL DESC, CFS#, CALL TIME, BUSINESS NAME, ADDRESS. Contains police activity data for various dates from 12/4/22 to 12/11/22.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Tyler Sutton

It was another busy week of High School Basketball action as both the Gladewater Bears and Lady Bears both had multiple games this week.

GLADEWATER LADY BEARS

Starting off with the Girls as the Lady Bears had a rough night at the office on Tuesday night, December 6th as they fell to the Brownsboro Bearettes 67-32.

The Lady Bears did cut into the lead slightly cutting it to 32-15 at the half. But the Bearettes continued their hot shooting and built on their lead upping it to 50-24 after three quarters.

"It was a rough week this week for us. We got to bounce back quickly as we got another game on Tuesday," said coach Jermaine Lewis.

The Lady Bears record is now 5-8 on the season and will be back in action on December 13th with a road game at West Rusk

GLADEWATER BEARS

The Boy's team also had multiple games this week starting on Tuesday as well with a road victory at Rains 75-67.

Tyrone Maddox chipped in with 12 points and 6 assists. The Bears then hit the road to Mount Pleasant for a tournament and fell 58-45 to the Clarksville Tigers on Thursday.

"Really liked how we once again played well on the road in Rains and got a win. I have really liked how we have performed in a road environment this season so far," said coach Curtis Armstrong.

Gladewater will be back at home on Tuesday, December 13th taking on Bogata-Rivercrest.

UNION GROVE LADY LIONS

At the Brook Hill Tournament, Ava Wightman scored 14 points and Gracie Stanford added 11 for Union Grove in capturing a 38-16 win over Allen Academy.

Taylor Campbell had five points, Sarah Prince four and Gracie Winn two for Union Grove, which outscored Allen Academy 24-8 in the second half.

UNION GROVE LIONS

West Rusk's Jimmie Harper dropped in 25 points, Jaxon Farquhar had 14 and the Raiders opened up a big lead early on the way to a 66-45 win over Union Grove.

Montrell Giddings finished with six points, Logan Chandler five, Geremiah Smith and Tate Winings four apiece, Beau Mason three and Ty Harper and Darren Nix two each.

Harper also had 10 rebounds, Farquhar eight and Giddings seven. Smith led with five assists, and Harper added seven steals.

West Rusk led 23-13 after one quarter and 40-22 at halftime.

Texas Girls Coaches Association State Basketball Poll December 12, 2022

Class 2A

- 1. Skidmore-Tynan 18-0
2. Panhandle 10-4
3. New Home 14-2
4. Gruver 9-3
5. Goldthwaite 10-0
6. Evadale 17-1
7. Nocona 11-0
8. Seymour 12-1
9. Lipan 14-2
10. Weimar 9-1
11. Moody 8-0
12. Eldorado 14-1
13. Woden 10-1
14. LaPoynor 6-2
15. Roscoe 4-0
16. Wink 11-1
17. Chireno 16-2
18. Ropes 103-2
19. Honey Grove 11-2
20. Miles 9-2
21. Hale Center 11-3
22. Tenaha 14-2
23. Clarendon 9-1
24. Stratford 11-2
25. Harper 11-2

Class 3A

- 1. Canadian 9-1
2. Mexia 17-1
3. Boling 13-1
4. Peaster 11-3
5. Fairfield 11-2
6. Jim Ned 13-1
7. Jourdanton 16-2
8. Wall 11-2
9. Winnsboro 9-4
10. Pottsboro 14-2
11. Brock 13-3
12. Franklin 8-1
13. Spearman 6-0
14. New Waverly 7-0
15. Bushland 5-0
16. Holliday 8-3
17. Shepherd 9-1
18. Mildred 12-2
19. Abernathy 10-2
20. Tidehaven 14-3
21. Columbus 9-2
22. Keene 13-3
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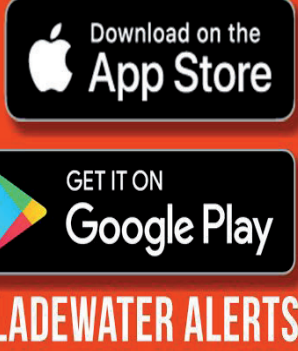
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## Keeping your Christmas tree looking its best

by Melinda Myers

The hunt for the perfect tree is oftentimes an important part of family tradition. Buy local whenever possible by supporting local Christmas tree growers.

Purchasing locally grown trees also reduces the risk of spreading unwanted pests into your landscape. Your local University Extension Service and Department of Natural Resources provide updates on any threats.

Family tradition may dictate your tree choice. Many prefer the fragrance of balsam fir and needle retention of other firs like

Fraser, white, Grand, and Noble. Though not a true fir, Douglas fir needles have a wonderful aroma when crushed. White pine lacks the fragrance that many prefer. Its pliable branches only support lightweight ornaments, but the soft needles have less bite than the popular Scots or Scotch pine. This evergreen has stiff branches that support heavier ornaments and its needles hold even when dry.

Check for freshness. A fresh tree will last throughout the holidays. Run your hand along the stem. The needles should be pliable

yet firmly attached to the branch. Avoid trees with lots of moss, lichens, vines, broken branches, and other signs of poor care.

Look at the overall shape and size of the tree. Stand the tree upright to make sure it will fit in the allotted space. Check the trunk. It should be straight and the base small enough to fit in your tree stand.

Make a fresh cut, removing at least an inch from the base of the trunk before setting it in the stand. Straight or diagonal cuts work equally well. A diagonal or V-shaped cut may make it difficult to

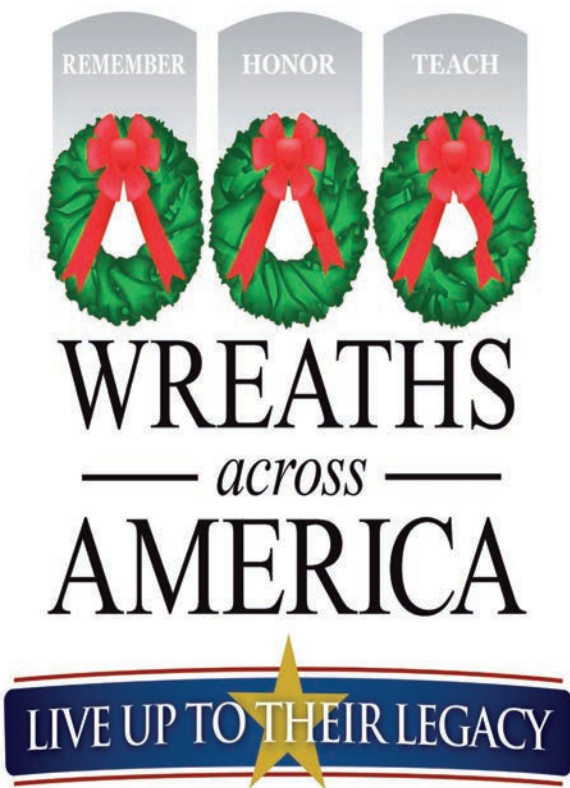
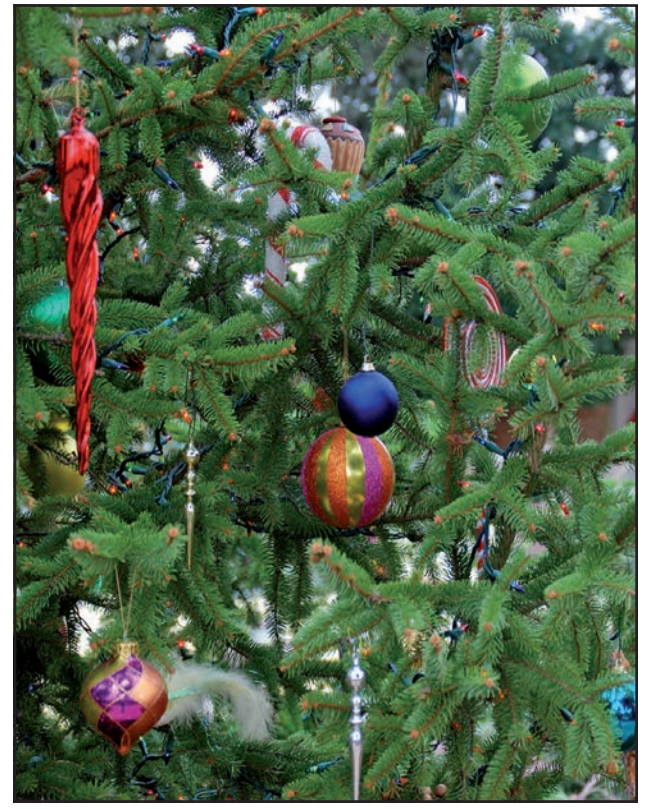
properly support the tree in the stand.

Proper watering is key. Fill the stand with water and check it often. Fresh trees can absorb as much as 2 quarts of water in the first 24 hours.

Keeping your tree stand filled with water is the best way to keep your tree looking its best.

Once your tree is in place, you can add lights and decorations.

Then take time throughout the busy holiday season to relax with your favorite winter beverage and enjoy the beauty of your Christmas tree.



## 'Wreaths Across America' ceremony Saturday

By Phillip Williams

The Gilmer area will have more than one "Wreaths Across America" ceremony this year as the Community Cemetery, an African-American graveyard near Gilmer, will host one Saturday.

The 11 a.m. ceremony is at 2324 S. Montgomery. Wreaths Across America is an organization which sponsors an annual "Wreaths Across America Day" to place wreaths on military veterans' graves. The organization's website said it coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C., and more than 3,400 other sites in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

Evelyn Walker, one of the Community Cemetery event's organizers and the widow of military veteran Billy Walker, said a decision was made to hold a ceremony there because 73 veterans are buried there.

"It's a labor of love," Walker added. "We don't know them all, but we owe them all."

The wreaths for the local ceremony, which will include both black and white participants, have been fully funded by private donations, Walker said. It will open with Boy Scouts Pack 314 posting the colors and leading the Pledge

of Allegiance, she said.

Jill Zeller will sing "America" before Pastor Charles Daniels Jr. leads prayer. After Walker gives the welcome and former Gilmer City Councilman William Hornsby sings "Falling By The Wayside," Thomas Daniels will recite the cemetery's history and the Upshur County Male Chorus will sing.

Gilmer journalist and businessman Phillip Williams will discuss his late father Troy Williams' experience as a prisoner in World War II, and will receive a wreath for Troy Williams' grave located at the West Mountain Cemetery.

After Debra Christian discusses the Wreaths Across America program, three brothers--Thomas Daniels, Charles Daniels and Joe Daniels--will call the names of veterans buried in the cemetery to conclude the program.

Among groups helping with the program are the Cherokee Rose Republican Women, whose president, Cynthia Ridgeway, invites her fellow members to attend.

Croley Funeral Home of Gilmer will also sponsor a wreaths ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday at Sunset Memorial Park, but details of the program were not yet available Monday.

## NFPA urges added caution this holiday season, as Christmas Day and Christmas Eve are among the leading days of the year for U.S. home fires

Many hallmarks of the holiday season, including Christmas trees, holiday decorations, and festive meals, present potential fire hazards that contribute to an annual increase in U.S. home fires at this time of year. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Christmas Day and Christmas Eve are among the leading days of the year for home fires.

"December is a leading month for home fires, in large part because many of the activities we engage in during the holiday season reflect leading causes of home fires year-round," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. "Plus, as colder temperatures impact much of the country, use of heating equipment increases significantly."

Fortunately, Carli notes, the majority of winter fires can be prevented with a little added awareness and planning.

"By knowing where potential fire hazards exist and taking some basic safety precautions to prevent them, people can enjoy a festive, fire-free holiday season," said Carli.

The NFPA Winter Holidays page offers a wide variety of tips and resources to reduce the risk of fires, while the latest NFPA statistics underscore the increased risk of fire during the holiday season and beyond:

### Christmas Trees

An estimated average of 160 home fires involving Christmas trees caused two civilian deaths, 11 civilian injuries, and \$12 million in direct property damage per year between

2016 and 2020.

Some type of electrical distribution or lighting equipment, including decorative lights, was involved in more than two of five (44 percent) of home Christmas tree fires. Nearly one in five Christmas tree fires (19 percent) were started by decorative lights.

The majority (74 percent) of Christmas tree fires occur in December and January.

### Decorations

An estimated average of 790 home fires that began when decorations (other than Christmas trees) caught fire caused an average of one civilian death, 26 civilian injuries and \$13 million in direct property damage per year between 2015 and 2019.

One in five home decoration fires occurred in December. Year-round, 35 percent of home decoration fires began with candles; in December, the number jumped to 45 percent.

In more than two of every five fires (44 percent) involving decorations, the decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle, cooking or heating equipment.

### Candles

An estimated average of 7,400 home fires (2 percent) started by candles caused an average of 90 civilian deaths (three percent), 670 civilian injuries (6 percent), and \$291 million (4 percent) in direct property damage per year between 2015 and 2019.

Candle fires peak in December and January with 11 percent of candle fires in each of these months.

In three of every five candle fires, the candle was too close to something that could catch fire.

Christmas is the peak day for candle fires with roughly 2.5 times the daily average; Christmas Eve ranked second.

Falling asleep was a factor in 10 percent of the home candle fires and 12 percent of the associated deaths.

### Cooking

Cooking is the leading cause of reported home fires (49 percent) and home fire injuries and the second-leading cause of home fire deaths.

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires.

Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.

Fires caused by heating equipment, the second-leading cause of U.S. home fires year-round, peak during the winter months, when temperatures drop and more people use heating equipment to keep their homes warm. Put a Freeze on Winter Fires, an annual NFPA campaign with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), works to educate the public about ways to stay safe during the colder months, offering tip sheets and other resources to help reduce the risk of heating fires and other winter hazards.

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